DÍAZ CANALES

GUARNIDO

BLACKSAD

They All Fall Down • Part 1

EUROPE COMICS

BLACKSAD

They All Fall Down • Part 1

Writer
Juan DÍAZ CANALES

Artist
Juanjo GUARNIDO

EUROPE COMICS

WHY, AS I TOLD THEE, 'TIS A CUSTOM WITH HIM, I' TH' AFTERNOON TO SLEEP. THERE THOU MAYST BRAIN HIM, HAVING FIRST SEIZED HIS BOOKS...

...OR BATTER HIS SKULL, OR PAUNCH HIM WITH A STAKE, OR CUT HIS WEZAND WITH THY KNIFE. REMEMBER FIRST TO POSSESS HIS BOOKS, FOR WITHOUT THEM HE'S BUT A SOT, AS I AM...

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE, AS EVERYONE KNOWS.

THEY ALL DO HATE HIM AS ROOTEDLY AS I. AND THAT MOST DEEPLY TO CONSIDER IS THE BEAUTY OF HIS DAUGHTER. HE HIMSELF CALLS HER A NONPAREIL.

IS IT SO BRAVE A LASS?

AND DESPITE MY LACK OF VOCATION, I'VE BECOME A REAL **PRO** IN THE PURSUIT OF DRAMA. AUDIENCE AND ACTOR. BASE PASSION AND HUMAN MISERY IN ABUNDANCE.

AY, LORD, SHE WILL BECOME THY BED, I WARRANT. AND BRING THEE FORTH BRAVE BROOD.

MONSTER, I WILL KILL THIS MAN. HIS DAUGHTER AND I WILL BE KING AND QUEEN, SAVE OUR GRACES!

AND TRINCULO AND THYSELF SHALL BE VICEROYS.

THE WOUNDED AND WHIMSICAL, THESE ARE MY FELLOW PLAYERS. WITH THIS KIND OF SCENE...

...IT'S A WONDER I STILL LOVE THE THEATER.

WHAT'D I TELL YOU? FANTASTIC, RIGHT?

OUTSTANDING!

NOW I SEE WHY SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK IS SO SUCCESSFUL.

HEY, **ROMEO**, ONCE THE SHOW IS OVER, YOU SHOULD FIND OUT THE YOUNG WOMAN'S NAME.

WHO? ME...?

THIS SHOW IS **OVER!**

WHO'S IN **CHARGE** HERE?

I'M THE DIRECTOR. **IRIS ALLEN.**

MY COMPLIMENTS, MA'AM. I'M ACTUALLY A HUGE FAN...

...BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO FOLLOW ME DOWNTOWN FOR A DEPOSITION. YOUR PLAY HAS INFRINGED A MUNICIPAL BYLAW PROHIBITING DEFILEMENT OF PUBLIC SPACES.

GET GOIN'! NOTHIN' TO SEE HERE!

G'WAN **HOME!**

BEAT IT!

CITY HALL'S IN A TIZZY OVER ITS **LAWN** BUT DOESN'T CARE A WHIT ABOUT BEATING IN PEOPLE'S HEADS! A BIG HAND FOR MR. MAYOR!

THIS IS AN **ABUSE** OF **POWER!**

WE'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING **WRONG!**

I'M **NOT** BUDGING!

CALM DOWN, FRIENDS! LET'S KEEP THIS TRAGEDY **ON** THE STAGE!

LONG TIME NO SEE, LIEUTENANT!

JUST WHAT I **DIDN'T** NEED...

3

MAYBE NOT THE SMARTEST IDEA, SENDING IN A FOX TO PUT DOWN THE HENHOUSE HECKLERS.

SOMEBODY'S GOTTA DO IT. AND ANYWAY, WHAT DOES AN ALLEY CAT LIKE YOU KNOW ABOUT **WORK?**

A HOUSECAT, REALLY... UNLESS A JOB SENDS ME TO THE STREETS. HERE'S MY CARD IN CASE YOU NEED SOME HELP.

GET OUTTA MY SIGHT! I GOT ENOUGH PROBLEMS, SO YOU CAN SPARE ME YOUR SMART MOUTH.

SPEAKING OF SMART, WHY NOT LET THE PLAY RUN TILL THE END? THAT'LL SAVE YOU AN INSANE DOGFIGHT.

LIEUTENANT, IT WOULD BE JUST THE LAST ACT. I PROMISE WHEN IT'S OVER, I'LL GO WITH YOU TO THE STATION.

FINE! I'LL WAIT FOR YOU BACKSTAGE.

THANK YOU. GOOD TIMING ON YOUR PART.

KEEP IT. IF YOU EVER NEED A HAND...

...YOU KNOW HOW TO FIND ME.

THANKS, BUT I HOPE I WON'T.

NOW MY CHARMS ARE ALL O'ERTHROWN, AND WHAT STRENGTH I HAVE'S MINE OWN, WHICH IS MOST FAINT.

LET ME NOT DWELL IN THIS BARE ISLAND BY YOUR SPELL...

...BUT RELEASE ME FROM MY BANDS WITH THE HELP OF YOUR GOOD HANDS.

MAGNIFICENT!

AMAZING!

BRAVO!

CAN I HELP?

YES, SURE! I WON'T SAY NO!

HALF THE COMPANY'S GONE TO POST BAIL FOR IRIS, SO WE'RE SHORT-HANDED.

MY NAME'S **WEEKLY.** I'M A REPORTER FOR WHAT'S NEWS.

RACHEL ZUCCO. I WRITE, TOO, BUT FOR THE ALTERNATIVE PRESS. I'M A "NEW JOURNALIST," Y'KNOW?

THAT "NEW JOURNALISM" IS **BALONEY!** I'M OUT ON THE STREETS EVERY DAY, RISKING MY NECK AS A REPORTER.

NO WORRIES. WE ALL DO WHAT WE HAVE TO, TO EARN A LIVING. I KNOW HOW TOUGH IT IS TO MAKE ENDS MEET.

IN FACT... WE'VE GOT A BRAND-NEW MANAGING EDITOR MAKING QUITE A FEW STAFF CHANGES.

IF YOU WANT TO DROP OFF YOUR RÉSUMÉ, I'LL GO WITH YOU. MAYBE THEY'LL GIVE YOU A JOB...

YEAH, WHY NOT? SEE YOU LATER!

WHEN I GET HOME WITH PEACE OF MIND AND KNUCKLES INTACT, THAT'S WHAT I CALL A GOOD DAY.

UNFORTUNATELY, DAYS LIKE THAT ARE ALL TOO RARE.

YA WANNA GET THROUGH CUSTOMS, YA GOTTA PAY YER TAX. DON'T TAKE A GENIUS TA KNOW DAT. AN' YA LOOK...

...LIKE A SMART GUY TA ME.

CLICK!

UGLY, TOO! HA, HA, HA!

Y'GOT THREE SECONDS TA TURN OVER YOUR WALLET...

BUMP

THREE...

YOU DON'T **SCARE** ME, YOU STUPID **PUNKS!**

BUMP

TWO...

CUT OFF HIS EAR, SO HE C'N SEE WE AIN'T FOOLIN'!

ONE...

?

BOOM!

SWISHHH!

POW!

MY OFFICE COULD DEFINITELY STAND A BETTER NEIGHBORHOOD.

YOU MUST HAVE A GOOD REASON FOR DROPPING BY **THIS** NECK OF THE WOODS...

?!

John Blacksad
PRIVATE EYE

I ONLY HAVE A LITTLE WHISKEY TO OFFER YOU...

...AND I'M FRESH OUT OF ICE. SORRY.

Gods, Graves & Scholars
C.W. CERAM

YOU'RE INTERESTED IN ARCHAEOLOGY?

I'M NOT ALWAYS WILD ABOUT WHAT I SEE EVERY DAY, AND LOOKING TO THE PAST CHEERS ME UP.

MY FRIEND IRIS ALLEN GAVE ME YOUR CARD. I'M KENNETH CLARKE, PRESIDENT OF THE TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION.

THE LEGENDARY **"MOLES."**

SUCCESS, POWER, AND THE BIG DECISIONS ALWAYS COME FROM THE **TOP.**

COVERING NEW YORK WITH HIGHWAYS AND GUTTING PUBLIC TRANSPORT... THAT'S **NOT** REFORM!

NO ONE BECOMES LEGENDARY WORKING UNDERGROUND. **EXCEPT** ARCHAEOLOGISTS.

GOT IT. **SOLOMON** AND HIS PLANS FOR URBAN REFORM.

ONLY A **PREDATOR** LIKE SOLOMON COULD CONTRIVE SUCH ATROCITY.

DON'T TELL ME YOU WANT MY **SUPPORT** IN YOUR FIGHT AGAINST HIM!

WE CATS ALWAYS LAND ON OUR FEET, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE LIKE HANGING OUT IN HIGH PLACES.

MY PROBLEM IS A BIT MORE DOWN TO EARTH. IT HAS TO DO WITH THE WEASEL MAFIA.

THEY ALREADY HAVE A STRANGLEHOLD ON THE DOCKWORKERS' AND TRUCKERS' UNIONS.

AND NOW THEY WANT THE MOLES.

NOW THEY WANT **ME**. AND THEY'VE SENT A HITMAN TO DO THE JOB. A GUY NAMED LOGAN. I DON'T TRUST THE POLICE, SO I'D LIKE **YOU** TO FIND HIM BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

YOU WANT TO TAKE THAT STATUE HOME WITH YOU?

FRANKLY, I'M MORE INTERESTED IN THE BOOK.

CONSIDER IT A NEW CUSTOMER INCENTIVE.

THANK YOU! BUT I'D PREFER TO RETURN IT ONCE YOU'VE RESOLVED THIS BUSINESS.

10

What's News

HEY, IT'S GOOD OL' WEEKLY!

CAN WE MEET YOUR KID?

HA, HA, HA!

HAS THE NEW BOSS SHOWN UP?

HE'S IN HIS OFFICE.

BUT... FOSTER AND LELAND ARE **NOT**. HE FIRED THEM THIS MORNING.

WHAT?! FOSTER AND LELAND HAVE BEEN ON STAFF FROM DAY ONE!

LET'S SPLIT. I'LL DROP OFF MY RÉSUMÉ ANOTHER TIME.

DON'T SWEAT IT. I'M AN **INSTITUTION** AT THIS PAPER...

KNOCK KNOCK

CARLO TEDESCO
Director

COME IN!

RACHEL ZUCCO. **NO** PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.

LIKES THEATER, POETRY, AND THE ARTS...

IN SHORT, A **BEATNIK** IN ALL HER GLORY!

LOOK, BOSS, I THINK THAT--

YOU'RE **HIRED!** I'VE READ YOUR WORK, AND IT'S JUST WHAT I WANT. YELLOW JOURNALISM IS OUT, AND "NEW" IS IN!

AND **YOU** ARE...?

WEEKLY, SIR. REPORTER...

THE ACCIDENT-CHASER? THE SCANDAL-SHEET PHOTOG WITH A TASTE FOR GORE?

YEAH... WELL, NOT EXACTLY. I--

ENOUGH OF THAT CRAP! NO MORE BLOOD'N'GUTS!

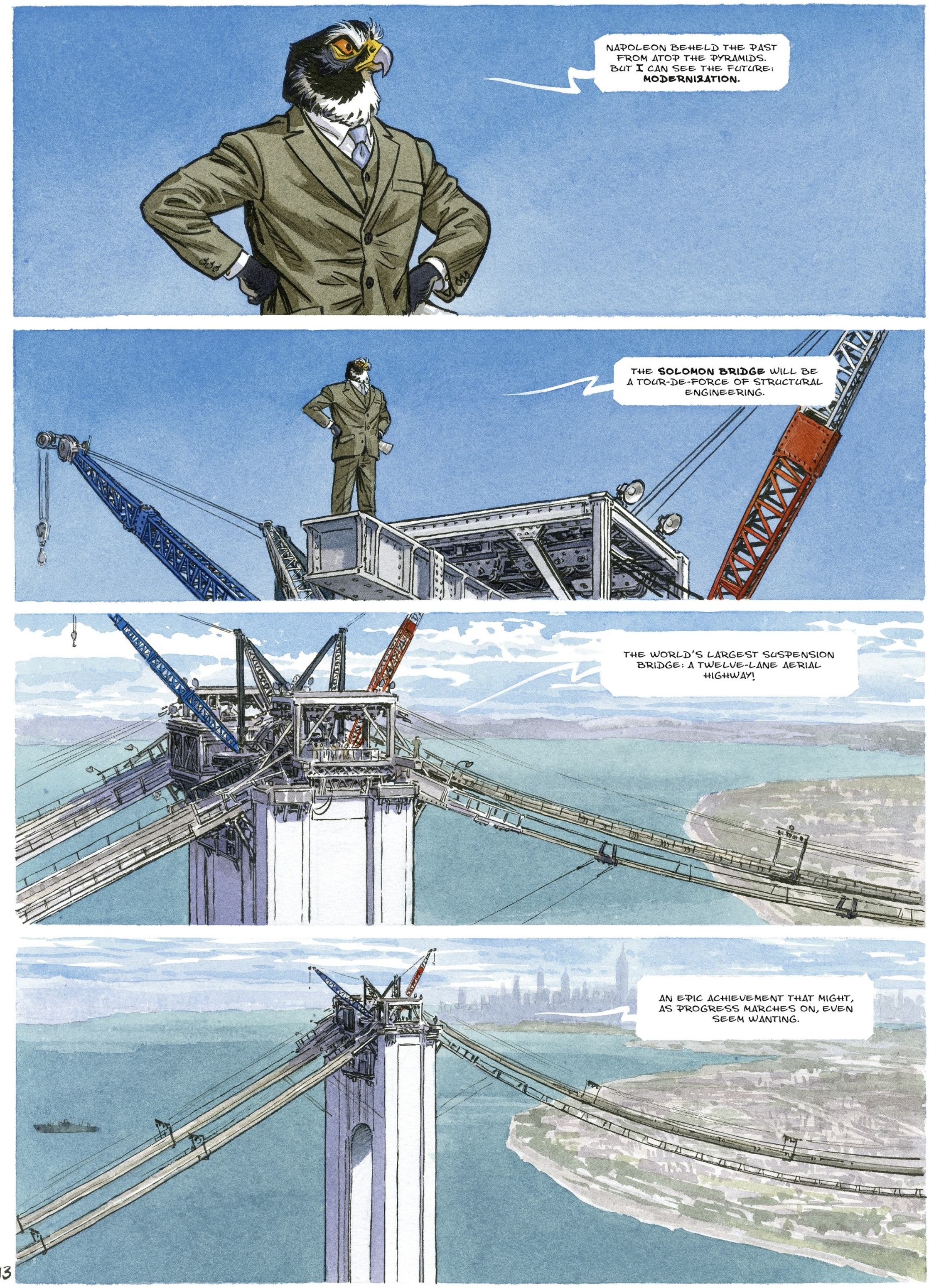
YOU WANNA STAY AT THIS PAPER, COME BACK WITH AN ARTICLE FIT TO PRINT.

WEEKLY... AIM **HIGHER!**

SLAM!!!

COOL!

12


NAPOLEON BEHELD THE PAST FROM ATOP THE PYRAMIDS. BUT I CAN SEE THE FUTURE: MODERNIZATION.
THE SOLOMON BRIDGE WILL BE A TOUR-DE-FORCE OF STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING.
THE WORLD'S LARGEST SUSPENSION BRIDGE: A TWELVE-LANE AERIAL HIGHWAY!
AN EPIC ACHIEVEMENT THAT MIGHT, AS PROGRESS MARCHES ON, EVEN SEEM WANTING.
13

THEN AGAIN, I'M PLANNING TO BOW OUT. I'VE BROUGHT YOU ALL HERE TODAY...

...TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE SOLOMON BRIDGE WILL BE MY CROWNING GLORY IN THIS CITY TO WHICH I'VE DEVOTED MY ENTIRE LIFE.

SOLOMON, YOU MEAN YOU'RE RETIRING?

LET'S JUST SAY THAT I'VE SERVED THE COMMUNITY LONG ENOUGH.

OUTLASTING FOUR MAYORS AND THREE GOVERNORS HARDLY MAKES YOU A CIVIL SERVANT...

MORE LIKE A **KING**, I'D SAY!

YOU'RE NOT RETIRING, YOU'RE **ABDICATING!**

PFFT... KINGS DON'T HANG AROUND CONSTRUCTION SITES. ONLY OLD FARTS DO THAT!

HA!HA!HA!HA!

GENTLEMEN! AS ALWAYS, I WILL HAPPILY ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS...

...AS LONG AS YOU WALK WITH ME.

GREAT, WELL... I'VE GOT ALL I NEED FOR MY ARTICLE.

I SAID I'D BE BACK AT THE OFFICE BY NOON.

UH... I HAVE A LUNCH DATE TO RUN TO.

WELL?

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW?

EVERYTHING.

I WANT TO WRITE A BIG FEATURE STORY ON YOU.

YOU'RE DARING, MY FRIEND. AND THAT **MEANS** SOMETHING.

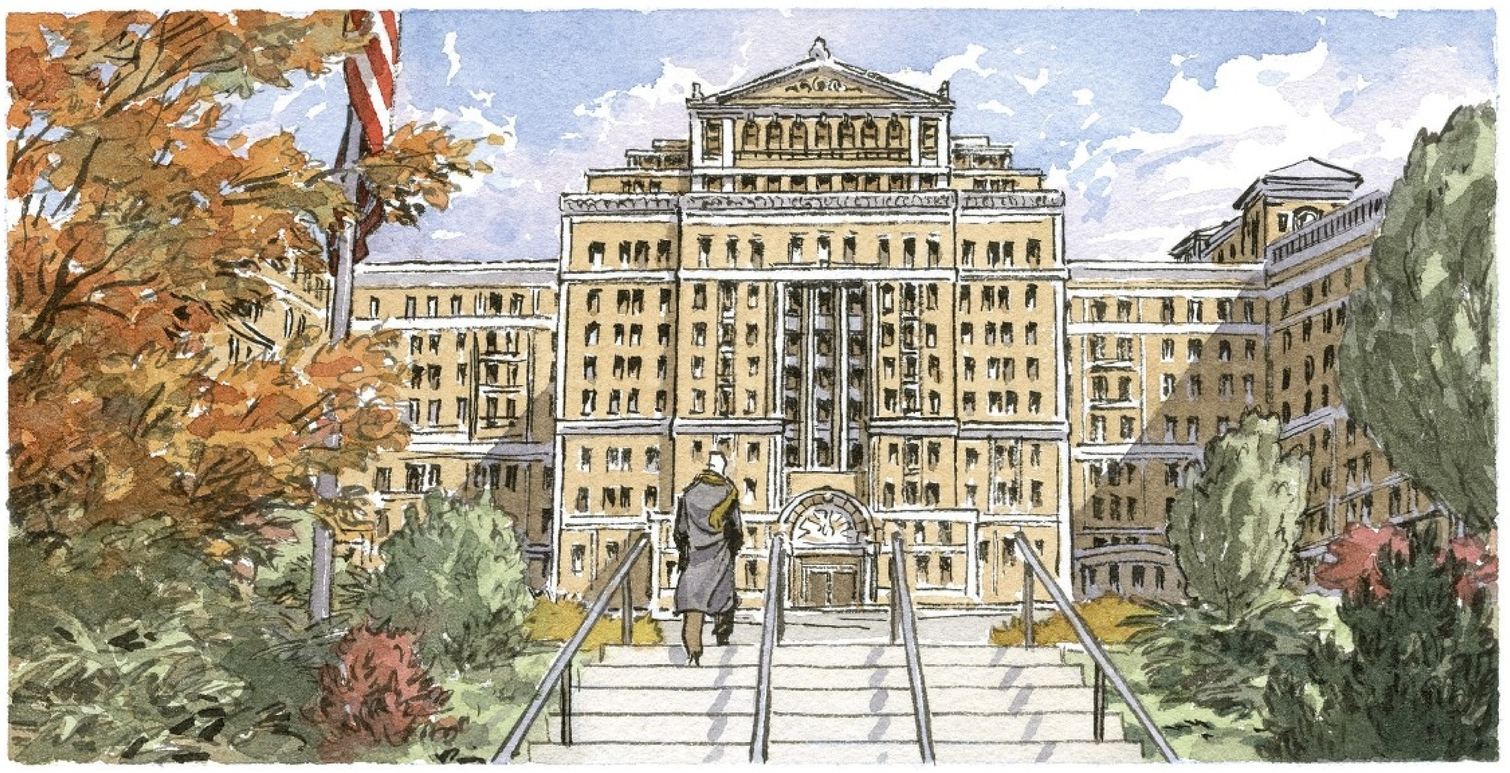
WITHOUT A LITTLE BACKBONE, I COULDN'T HAVE CHANGED THE FACE OF THIS TOWN... OR DEALT WITH THE NAYSAYERS WHO CLAIMED I'D NEVER GET THE MONEY OR THE LAW BEHIND ME.

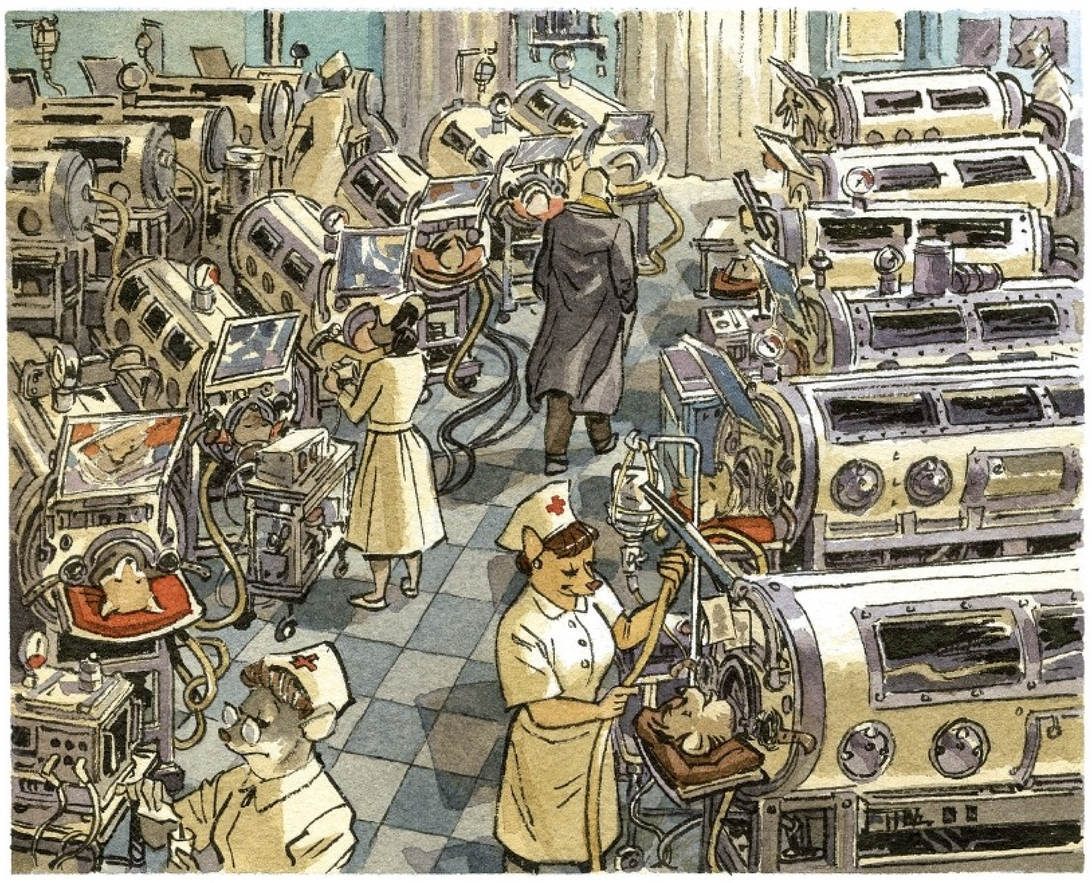
THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THE BOLD. TO PEOPLE LIKE US, WHO KNOW THAT THE ONLY LIMITS ARE THOSE WE SET OURSELVES. THAT YOU CAN'T MAKE AN OMELET WITHOUT BREAKING A FEW EGGS.

I TOTALLY AGREE. THAT'S WHY I'D LIKE TO FOLLOW YOU AROUND FOR A FEW WEEKS AND GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT TO THE WHOLE WORLD.

SO BE IT, MY FRIEND.

BELLEVUE HOSPITAL





HELLO, SHELBY. GET IN, PLEASE.

HOW'S DILL?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
IT'S ABOUT KENNETH.

HE CAME BY YESTERDAY, PLEADING WITH ME TO STOP THE DEMOLITION OF SUBWAY LINES ALREADY SCHEDULED FOR THIS YEAR.
HE SAYS THE DEMOLITION'S A DEATH WARRANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN THIS CITY. THAT HE WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP THE UNION FROM COMING DOWN ON HIM LIKE A TON OF BRICKS...
WE'VE INVESTED **MILLIONS** OF DOLLARS IN HIGHWAYS, BRIDGES, AND TUNNELS...
...SO I WON'T SHED ANY TEARS OVER THE FATE OF THOSE DEADBEATS.
THE PROBLEM IS... THAT IDIOT HAS **BLACKMAIL** IN MIND.

IF KENNETH SINGS, WE **ALL** STAND TO LOSE. YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING, SHELBY?

LUXURY REPAIR

A CITY IS THE HIGHEST EXPRESSION OF COLLECTIVE TRIUMPH.

MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WORKING IN CONCERT, SERVICES FOR ALL...

...A MACHINE THAT RUNS LIKE CLOCKWORK.

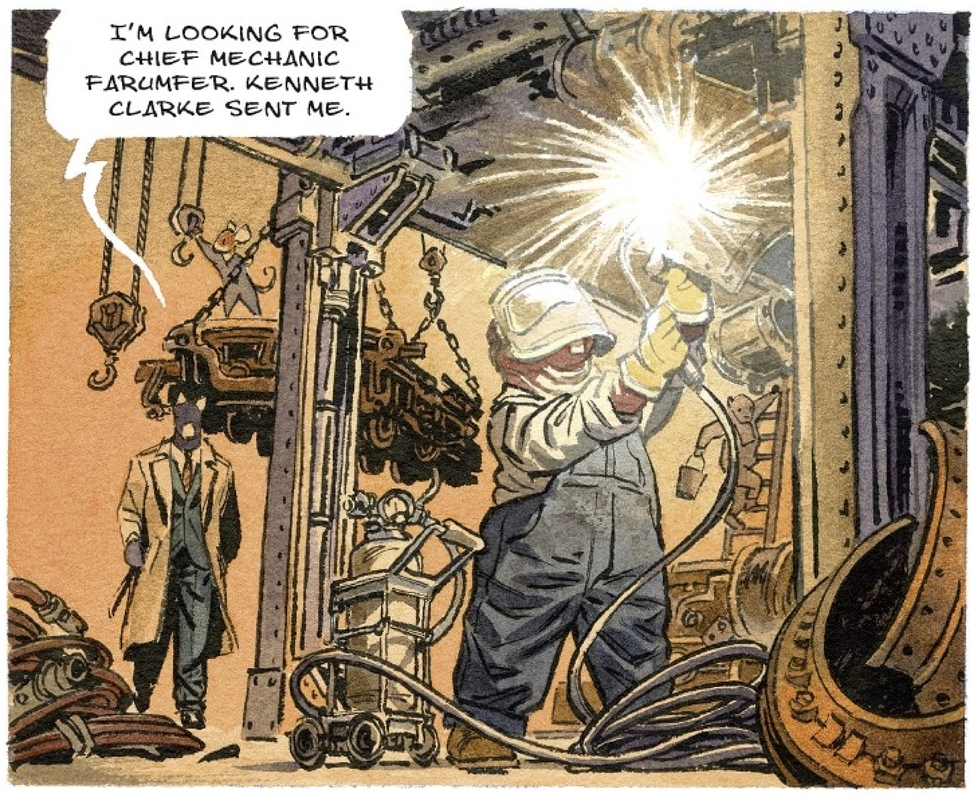
UNTIL THE MOMENT IT ALL BREAKS DOWN.

USELESS, DEFECTIVE PARTS ARE FOUND AND SCRAPPED. EVERYTHING IS REPLACEABLE.

YET, IN THE BOWELS OF THE CITY, THERE'S A PLACE...

...WHERE HUMANITY AND TECHNOLOGY BECOME A TANGIBLE REALITY, AND NOT A CHEAP METAPHOR.

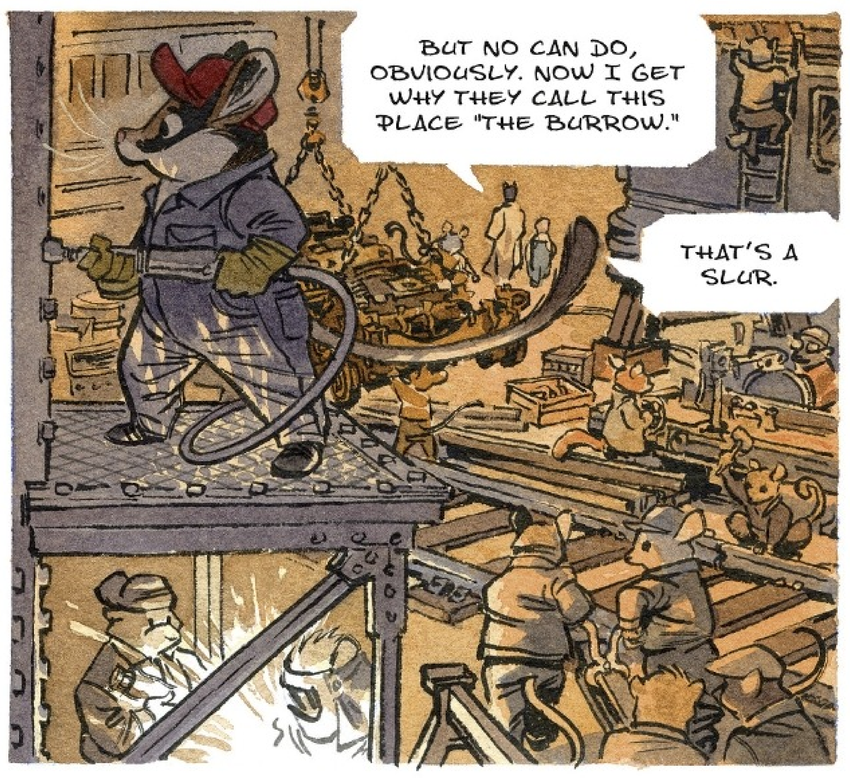
"THE BURROW."


I'M LOOKING FOR CHIEF MECHANIC FARUMFER. KENNETH CLARKE SENT ME.

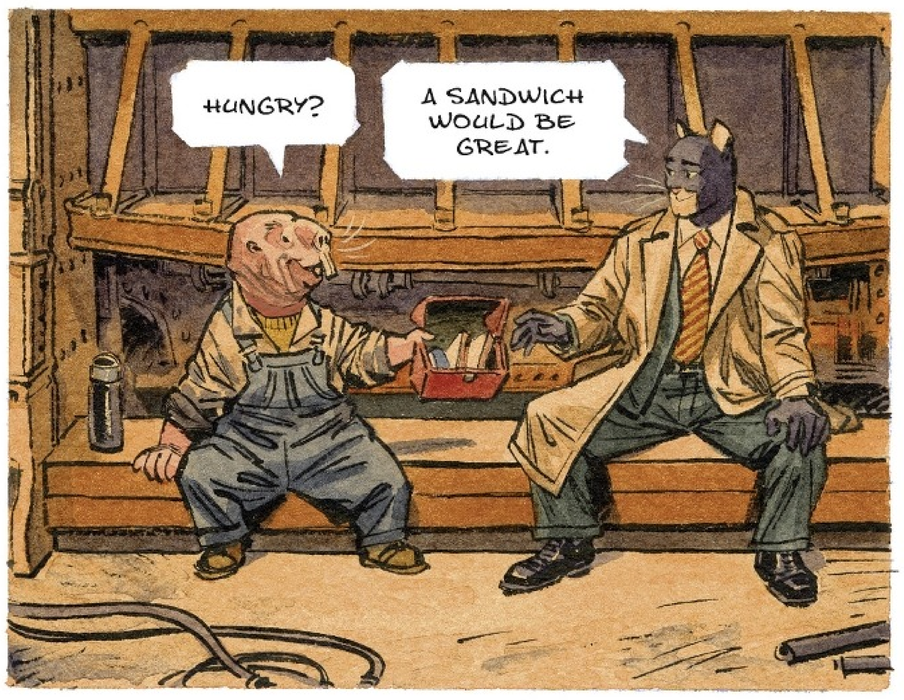
A CAT?

A DETECTIVE.

LOOK, DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY, OKAY? BUT WHEN KENNETH ASKED ME TO HELP YOU BLEND IN HERE, I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE UNDERCOVER...
THAT **WAS** THE IDEA.

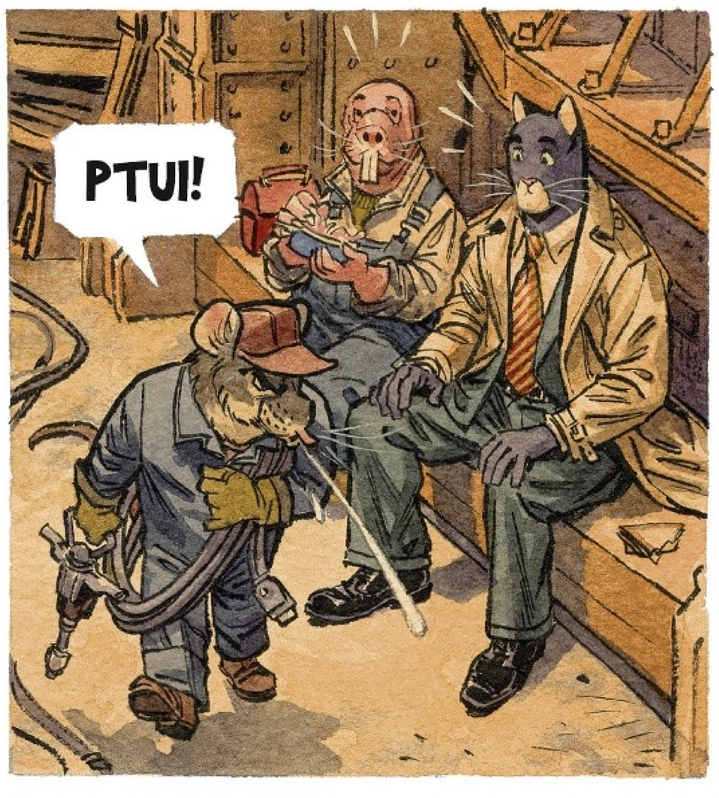

BUT NO CAN DO, OBVIOUSLY. NOW I GET WHY THEY CALL THIS PLACE "THE BURROW."
THAT'S A SLUR.

JUST LIKE "MOLES."
SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO OFFEND.


HUNGRY?
A SANDWICH WOULD BE GREAT.

WE DON'T WORK THE TUNNELS FOR FUN, Y'KNOW.
WORMS

FOR YEARS WE'VE BEEN LOBBYING FOR LESS BACKBREAKING LABOR.


PTUI!

NOW IT'S **MY** TURN TO APOLOGIZE. THESE GUYS ARE PRETTY BLINDED BY RACIAL PRIDE, AS IF THAT COULD EVER FILL THEIR BELLIES...

KENNETH TOLD ME THEY DON'T EVEN TRUST **HIM.** THEY SAY A BAT IS HALF-RAT, HALF-BIRD.

THAT DISTRUST GOES WAY BACK, TO THE DAYS WHEN SOLOMON AND KENNETH FIRST CARVED OUT THEIR CAREERS TOGETHER: ONE AT CITY HALL, THE OTHER AT THE UNION.

POLITICS MAKES STRANGE BEDFELLOWS.

AND RUMOR HAS IT THEY'RE IN LEAGUE **AGAIN,** NOW THAT SOLOMON WANTS THOSE SUBWAY LINES SHUT DOWN.

FARUMFER! ACCIDENT!

WHAT'S GOING **ON?**

THAT DAMNED CROC DROPPED A WRENCH FROM THE CATWALK AND SPLIT OPEN MOE'S SKULL!

IT SLIPPED OUTTA MY HAND, MAN! I DUNNO HOW...

BREAK'S **OVER!** EVERYONE BACK TO WORK! AND TAKE MOE TO THE INFIRMARY BEFORE HE LOSES WHAT BRAINS HE'S GOT LEFT!

YOU! GET **LOST!** IF YOU'RE JUST GONNA CAUSE TROUBLE, DON'T BOTHER COMING IN!

WHO **ARE** THOSE GUYS?

GHOST WORKERS.

THE WEASEL MAFIA FERRETS THE DRIFTERS OUT FROM STATIONS AND HOSTELS, TO RECRUIT 'EM FOR THE UNION.

LOGAN, THE HITMAN WE'RE AFTER, COULD BE ONE OF **THEM.**

YEAH, COULD BE. THOSE LOSERS ARE EASY TO BUFFALO.

THEY'LL DO PRETTY MUCH ANYTHING FOR A DRINK: SIGN, VOTE, WHATEVER.

YES... KEEP GOING!

THAT'S IT, CHICKLET!

C'MON... NOW THE SKIRT!

21

MR. RAFFLES! HOW IS MY SENIOR ENGINEER TODAY?

OH! I'M... FINE. SUPERVISING THE WORK, AS ALWAYS.

THIS ANNOYING MISHAP MAY HAVE DISABLED MY FOOT, BUT NOT MY BRAIN.

AND TO THAT POINT, I HAVE GOOD NEWS.

THE FIGHT WAS TOUGH, BUT THE COUNCIL FINALLY RATIFIED YOUR POSITION.

THANK YOU, SOLOMON! YOU WON'T REGRET YOUR FAITH IN ME!

I HOPE NOT.

YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN HIM GO TO BAT FOR YOU, MR. RAFFLES! YOUR ENEMIES STONEWALLED EVERY ATTEMPT, BUT MR. SOLOMON HAD THEM EATING CROW BY THE END!

AND **YOU** ARE...?

SORRY, I SHOULD'VE INTRODUCED MYSELF: I'M WRITING A FEATURE ON MR. SOLOMON, AND--

CAT GOT YOUR PRETTY LITTLE TONGUE, HONEY?

?!

NO! SO KEEP YOUR MITTS TO YOURSELF, GRANDPA!

PUT YOUR HAND TO THE WHEEL, RAFFLES. WE'RE ON DEADLINE.

I'M **ON** IT, SOLOMON. *HEH-HEH!*

COME BACK! I CAN'T GET UP WITHOUT MY CRUTCH!

CLONK!

22

I'M TOLD YOU CAN MAKE A FEW BUCKS AROUND HERE.

THEY'RE ON THE WAY.

THE WEASELS?

THEY PREFER "RECRUITERS."

GOT ANY SMOKES?

MUSTA LEFT THEM IN MY TUX!

PAWS OFF, FLEABAG!

ARGHH!

I SAW IT FIRST!

DAMN CAT!

EASY THERE, BOYS.

THIS ROUND'S ON ME.

FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE IN THE TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION.

NO PARKING

CICCIONE PIZZA-PASTA

BUT YOU BUMS DON'T HAVE TO WORRY.

YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO **WORK!** JUST GO TO THE MEETINGS, AND VOTE THE WAY YOU'RE TOLD. GOT IT?

WE'LL HAVE SOME PAPERS FOR YOU TO SIGN...

24

THE ONLY PAPER I WANNA SEE IS THE **CASH** YOU PROMISED US!

IF YOU THINK YOU'RE GONNA SCREW ME OVER, YOU'D BETTER THINK AGAIN! MAFIA BASTARD!

I NEED A HONKER LIKE YOURS TO CHECK MY STIR-FRY.

?!

I THINK IT'S JUST RIGHT...

BUT GETTING A SECOND OPINION NEVER HURTS.

AAAAAAAAAHH!!

SMELLS **GOOD**, HUH?

ENOUGH, **LOGAN!**

YOU **ALL** SIGN IN TOMORROW.

AAARGH!!

TURNS OUT THAT I WAS THE ONLY ONE TO SIGN IN, OF ALL THE NEW RECRUITS.

0657

THE INDIVIDUALIST **ALWAYS** STANDS OUT: LIKE A SORE THUMB.

FARUMFER OBJECTED TO MY STRATEGY. THE ATMOSPHERE WAS TENSE AT WORK, AND HE SAID MY PRESENCE WOULD BE A SOURCE OF FRICTION WITH THE MOLES.

HIS PETTY REVENGE WAS A SERIES OF GRUELING TASKS FOR ME.

I TOOK IT AS A WAY TO GET BACK IN SHAPE.

AND THOUGH I WAS RELUCTANT TO ADMIT IT, I DID NEED THE EXERCISE.

FOR TWO LONG WEEKS, I'D BEEN KENNETH'S WEARY SHADOW. UNFORTUNATELY FOR MY ACHING BODY, LOGAN STILL HADN'T SHOWN UP.

BUY TOKE

ens here

BUT ALL THINGS COME...

...TO THOSE WHO WAIT.

I LEARNED THAT IN THE RING.

I WAS ALSO TAUGHT THE VALUE OF EFFORT...

DISCIPLINE...

DETERMINATION...

...AND SACRIFICE.

WHY WAS I SUCH A **LOUSY** STUDENT?

MAYBE BECAUSE IT'S HARD TO HEAR WHEN EVERY BLOW SETS YOUR HEAD SPINNING.

OR WHEN YOU'RE DOWN, CHEEK FLAT AGAINST THE MAT...

...A LOUDMOUTH SHOUTING THE TEN-COUNT FROM ABOVE.

BUT THE BEST LESSON I LEARNED FROM THOSE DAYS...

...IS THAT YOU CAN SPEND YOUR ENTIRE LIFE TRAINING. AND STILL...

...YOUR HOPES, DESIRES, ALL YOUR DREAMS...

...CAN GO DOWN IN ONE FELL SWOOP.

THAT...

...IS THE ONLY TRUTH.

TAP TAP TAP

TAP TAP TAP

TAP TAP TAP TAP

TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP

IRONICALLY, WE'D BOTH ACHIEVED OUR GOALS.

I'D COMPLETED MY MISSION: TO NEUTRALIZE LOGAN.

AND KENNETH HAD KEPT HIS PROMISE: TO RETURN MY BOOK.

29

...AND NOW YOU'RE PUPPETS, DEVOID OF FEELING.

LOOK, I HELPED **YOU.** I PUT UP WITH SOLOMON AND THAT GROSS ENGINEER OF HIS.

NOW... **UP!** WHO'S PULLING YOUR STRINGS?

YOU KINDA OWE ME ONE.

IF I EVER MAKE A FOOL OF MYSELF LIKE THIS, JUST **KILL** ME! EVEN SMASHED, I'D NEVER WEAR THOSE TIGHTS!

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M ASKING. JUST GIVE THE ACTING CLASS A CHANCE...

SUDDENLY... THE CORD IS CUT! YOU FALL TO THE GROUND, INERT. LIFELESS.

THAT'S IT FOR TODAY! SEE YOU ALL TOMORROW.

SO... OUR NEW ACTOR?

I'M A JOURNALIST, IN FACT.

AS I TOLD WEEKLY, PSYCHOLOGY AND ACTING ARE PERFECT TOOLS FOR A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO THE INTERVIEW PROCESS.

YOU CAN LEARN TO COME ACROSS AS SOMEONE ELSE. THAT'S A CRUCIAL SKILL IN INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM.

OKAY. LET'S SEE WHAT HE'S GOT.

HOW CAMEST THOU HITHER, TELL ME, AND WHEREFORE? AND THE PLACE DEATH, CONSIDERING WHO THOU ART, IF ANY OF MY KINSMEN FIND THEE HERE.

WITH LOVE'S LIGHT WINGS DID I O'ER-PERCH THESE WALLS, FOR STONY LIMITS CANNOT HOLD LOVE OUT... THEREFORE THY KINSMEN ARE NO STOP TO ME.

BY WHOSE DIRECTION FOUND'ST THOU OUT THIS PLACE?

BY LOVE, WHO DID FIRST PROMPT ME TO INQUIRE. HE LENT ME COUNSEL AND I LENT HIM EYES...

THANKS. I'VE HEARD ENOUGH.

YOU CERTAINLY HAVE A FEEL FOR COMEDY! UNFORTUNATELY, THAT'S **NOT** OUR SPECIALTY HERE...

RACHEL... BRAVA! YOU'RE FANTASTIC.

THANKS A MILLION, IRIS! I OWE IT ALL TO YOU!

I DID WANT TO PROPOSE SOMETHING. BETWEEN THE CLASSES AND THE FESTIVAL, MY HANDS ARE TOO FULL. WOULD YOU CONSIDER A PARTNERSHIP?

OH, I COULDN'T... WAY TOO MUCH RESPONSIBILITY! AND NOW THAT I'M AT THE NEWSPAPER, I DON'T HAVE A MINUTE TO SPARE.

?!

YOUR PLACE IS ON STAGE, NOT IN A NEWSROOM.

JOURNALISM IS TURNING INTO AN OCCUPATION FOR **TOADIES** IN SERVICE OF POWER...

AND OF INTERIOR DECORATION, FROM WHAT I CAN TELL.

HAH! SEE? YOU **DO** HAVE A KNACK FOR COMEDY!

THIS SET IS FOR A PLAY TITLED *THE EPHEMERAL AND THE INSUBSTANTIAL.*

WE GOTTA SPLIT, IRIS. SEE YOU NEXT WEEK.

IRIS ALLEN?

I AM KENNETH CLARKE'S ATTORNEY. I'M DELIVERING THIS LETTER TO YOU PER THE PROVISIONS OF HIS WILL.

HIS WILL?

THE FUNERAL IS THIS THURSDAY.

TO BE CONTINUED IN PART 2.

Some just pass through,
others sow seeds as they do.
In memory of my mother, Toñi.
JDC

EUROPE COMICS - ALL DIGITAL. ALL EUROPEAN.
www.europecomics.com

This work is published as an e-book under the collective imprint Europe Comics, coordinated by Mediatoon Licensing. For rights queries, please contact Mediatoon at contact.mfr@mediatoon.com, or visit http://www.mediatoon-foreignrights.com.

© 2021 – DARGAUD – Guarnido & Díaz Canales
Translation: Diana Schutz and Brandon Kander
Editing: Jill McCoy
Lettering: Cromatik, Ltd.
Original title: Blacksad 6 – Alors, tout tombe
Originally published in French by DARGAUD in 2021
All rights reserved.
www.dargaud.com
DARGAUD